MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gas and Coal Based sponge iron plants

*107. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas-based and coal-based sponge iron plants which are in operation in the country at present;

(b) the name of the multi-nationals supplying technology to these plants;

(c) whether Government propose to permit more sponge iron plants, if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu using magnetic iron ore; and

(e) whether it is a fact that multi-nationals from United States and Germany have offered technology to put up sponge iron plants and whether Government have evaluated their performance in this field and if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) At present there are 5 coal-based and one gas-based sponge iron plants in operation in the country.

(b) The coal-based plants are based on the technology supplied by M/s. Lurgi GmbH, Germany, Allis Chalmers Corporation, USA and Mannesmann Demag, Germany (formerly M/s. Krupp). The gas-based plant is based on the technology supplied by M/s. Midrex International, Netherland.

(c) The sponge iron industry has been delicensed subject to certain locational restrictions and many entrepreneurs have restrictions and many entrepreneurs have plants in the country.

(d) Government is not considering any proposal at present for establishment of a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu using Magnetic iron ore.

(e) Sponge iron plants (both coal-based and gas-based) have been implemented with technology supplied by multi-national companies including those in the United States and Germany Some more plants based on such technologies are under implementation. Applications of Indian companies seeking foreign technical collaboration are examined on case-to-case basis and approval issued depending upon the need for foreign technology, suitability of the technology proposed and the terms and conditions transfer.

Expert review implementation of the Sardar Sarover Project

@*108. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has started an independent expert review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarover Project following protests by Indian environmentalists;

(b) if so, what is the progress in this regard and whether work on the project has been suspended due to this review;

(c) whether the World Bank has further decided to extend the credit rating of the projects by one year; and

(d) if so, what is, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir, an independent review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been initiated by the World Bank.

(b) The work on the Project is proceeding as per schedule. The work of review has not yet commenced.

@Previously Starred Question 48 transferred from 16th July, 1991.